AWRA florida SECTION
American Water Resources Association

AWRA Position Paper on Aquifer Storage and Recovery

For 30 years, the Florida Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) has served as a interdisciplinary nonprofit organization with objectives that include:

- Promoting research and technological, social, economic, and legislative advances in all aspects of water and related resource planning, utilization, management, and development.
- Collecting and disseminating information, knowledge, and data concerning all aspects of water and related resources.
- Promoting the rational and objective development and utilization of water resources.

Accordingly, AWRA supports innovative, science-based technologies that enhance the management of Florida's precious water resources. As Florida's economy and population continue to grow, AWRA believes it is critical to ensure that all potential water resource solutions are fully examined.

One technology that has been the subject of much recent debate and discussion is Aquifer Storage and Recovery Technology (ASR). ASR is an expanding technology in which fresh water is pumped into a deep confined aquifer where it is stored until there is a need for supplemental water supplies, at which point it is pumped back to the surface and used. ASR is widely used in Florida in association with treated drinking water to meet dry season peak demands without the significant loss of water through evaporation, which occurs with more conventional surface storage.

The proposed use of ASR in Florida as an alternative water supply, and on a regional scale in south Florida, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, has raised concerns over the potential adverse water quality impacts of ASR on local ground water resources. In order to address these concerns, several pilot ASR test projects have been proposed. These pilot projects will provide site specific data that will address the perceived uncertainties associated with surface water quality impacts on ground water resources, regional hydrogeology of the aquifer, and anticipated recovery rates. Of particular interest is the potential for site specific permit variances for certain water quality constituents if reasonable assurance is provided that there will be no impact to the ground water resource.

Therefore, the AWRA Florida Section encourages the continuation of scientific based decision making concerning the ASR applications that may be used as part of the solution to Florida's challenging water issues.

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